

Neighborhood Grants Program



Informational
Webinar
March 20, 2023



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

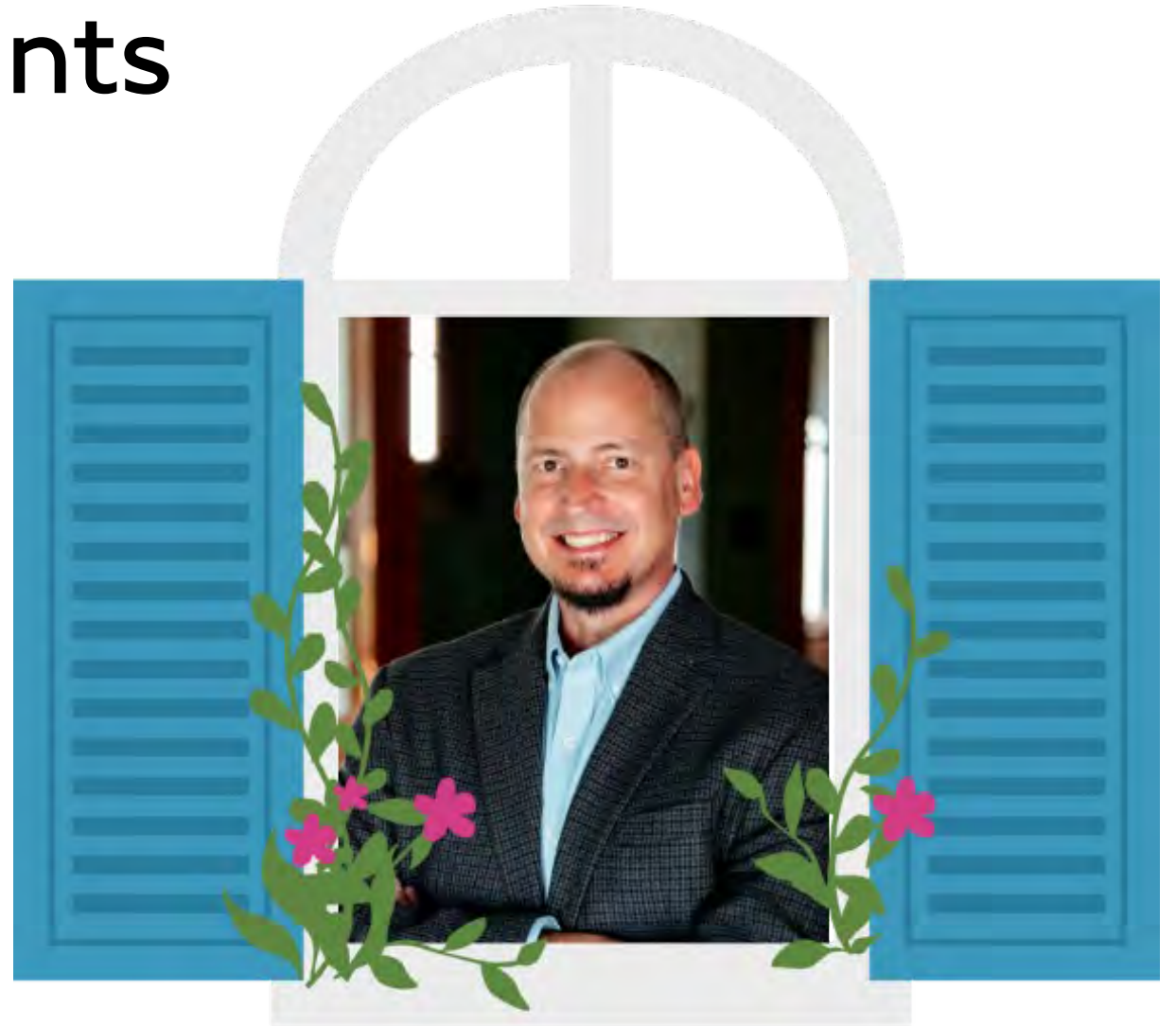
Neighborhood Grants Program History

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In the beginning ...

- 1990: There were 15 neighborhood organizations.
- 1990: CFNIL received a half million-dollar Ford/MacArthur grant to support affordable housing.



Early Activities

- CFNIL convened a group of housing organizations to consider ways to promote affordable housing.
- Awarded \$250,000 to four neighborhood development organizations from 1991-1993.
- December 10, 1991: Rockford Area Affordable Housing Coalition was formed.



Neighborhood Grants Program

- 1995: Neighborhood Grants Program established.
- Early adopter of a grant program that awarded funds to non-501(c)(3) neighborhood organizations.
- 22 grants totaling \$24,500



Neighborhood Activism

- 1996: Council on Neighborhood Organizations established.
- 1997: John McKnight, co-founder of the ABCD Institute at DePaul University, spoke to neighborhood associations in Rockford.
- 1998 – 2000: Provided leadership training through the Gamaliel Foundation.



America in Bloom, Neighborhood Network, & Excellence Everywhere

- 2005: City of Gardens & NGP partnership that helped Rockford win America in Bloom - Earmarked \$45,000
- 2005: CFNIL facilitated the development of Neighborhood Network.
- 2006: Partnered with then Rockford Mayor, Larry Morrissey, theming our grantmaking that year as “Excellence Everywhere”.



Neighborhood Network/CFNIL Partnership Grants

- 2010: CFNIL partnered with Neighborhood Network and the City of Rockford to offer:
 - Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program
 - BOLD Neighborhood Capacity Building Grant Program.



Partnership with HomeStart

- 2017: HomeStart and CFNIL NGP partnership formed.
- HomeStart brings:
 - Established relationships with neighborhood residents
 - Additional funding resources
 - Additional leadership training through NeighborWorks
 - Expansion into Boone, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties.
- NGP comes full circle – NHS of Freeport & RAAHC merged to form HomeStart in 2013.



27 years later...

- As many as 90 neighborhood organizations.
- 499 grants totaling \$776,122.93 since 1995.
- Wide variety of grants – Key is neighborhood improvement by and for neighborhood residents.



Application Walk-Thru and Tips

- Start at cfnil.org
- Create an account if you are applying for the first time. **Contact us to be added to a current organization account.**
- Useful Links:
 - [Applying for Funding](#)
 - [How to Use Collaborator](#)
 - [CFNIL's Grant Resources](#)
 - [Copy Request Application Tutorial](#)
 - [Neighborhood Grants Program Webpage \(Budget\)](#)



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What is the Purpose of the Program?

- Promote resident participation and leadership in neighborhood-based groups/organizations
- Encourage and support the work of neighborhood-based groups
- Invest in and build on the existing strengths and assets of the region's neighborhoods; and
- Promote civic pride in our community.



Who's Eligible to Apply?

- Be a 501(c)(3) agency and/or an organized group carrying out a charitable purpose for the common good (e.g., neighborhood organizations);
- Have a minimum of three active leaders (e.g., President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.);
- Current checking account in the name of the organization/group;
- Be operated and organized so that there is no discrimination



Who's Eligible to Apply?

- Located within Boone, Ogle, Stephenson or Winnebago County;
- Have a plan to implement a project that will benefit residents of a defined geographic area;
- Have the capacity to complete the proposed project by the end of the year; and
- Be current on all final reports for previously awarded grants from the Neighborhood Grants Program.



What Do We Fund?

Projects that ...

- **Resident led**
- Build on existing neighborhood assets
- Encourage neighborhood partnerships
- Max grant is \$2,500



Examples Please?

- Resident-Focused Seminars
- Community Gardens
- Organizing & Newsletters
- Reforestation Projects**
- Neighborhood Clean Ups
- Neighborhood Activities & Surveys
- Crime Prevention
- Beautification Projects*



A Note About Beautification Projects

- Permanent fixtures must be installed on public property or common areas
- Landscape projects must be permanent improvements
- Need a maintenance plan
- Trees can only be planted on public or common areas



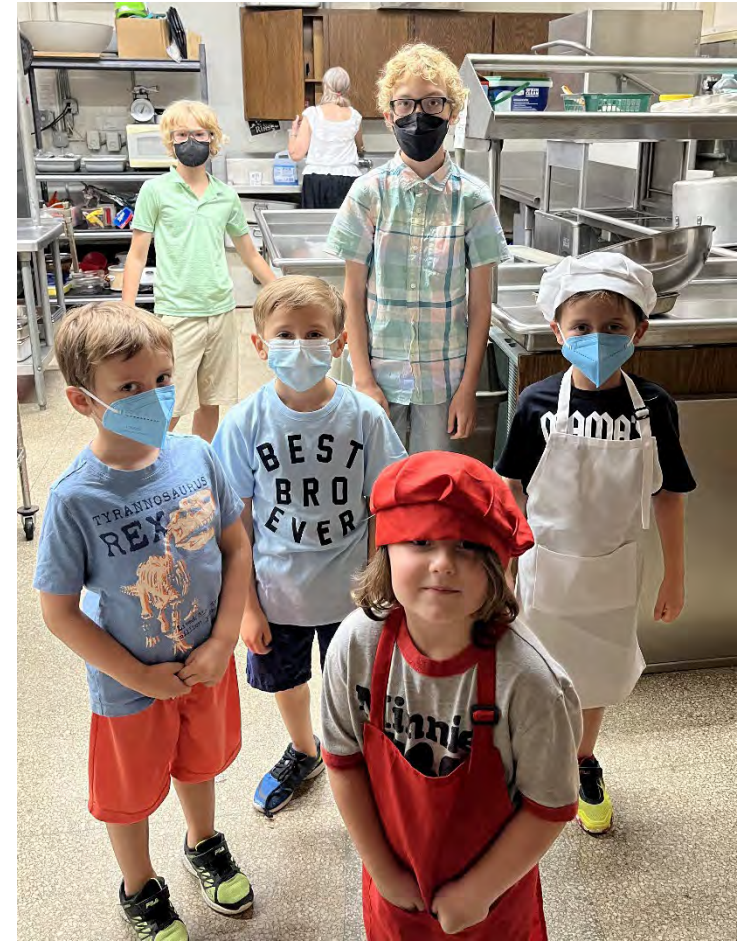
What Don't We Fund?

- Landscaping private property
- Activities that primarily benefit non-resident organizations including nonprofit and for-profit organizations
- Religious purposes – But faith-based organizations can apply for non-religious purposes



How Will You Spend The Money?

- Upload a budget
- Specific budget template on our website
- Budget narrative



Reporting Requirements

- Must report on your project
- Due by December 31st of funded year
- Use CFNIL's Grants Portal to submit online



Timeline

- Application opens March 13th
- Application closes April 17th
- Awards in May
- Reports due December 31, 2023



Publicizing Your Neighborhood Grant

- When appropriate, yard sign
- Press Release
- Site Visit (aka grown-up field trip!)
- Social media
- T-shirt, program, posters



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Who Can I Contact?

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Thank You!

